During recent visit of an Indian delegation to China it was agreed that the Indian side would submit proposals for planning and development of opencast mines in China.

Export of agricultural commodities

*13. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: "Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the value of exports of agricultural commodities (excluding cotton) during the last three years till date with year-Wise and month-wise figures;

(b) what is India's share in the global trade in agricultural commdities at present;

(c) whether there has been any decline in the agricultural exports as per centage of India's total exports during the above period; and.

(d) if so, the details thereof; and the reasons therefor and what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The details of exports of various agricultural commodities since 1091-92 are given below:

S.No.	Commodity	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
1	Rice	754.98	971.03	1280.09
2	Wheat	121.47	10.18	0.27
3	Other Cereals.	6.74	10.14	122.03
4	Tobacco	377.29	483.06	460.96
5	Spices	370.40	360.02	561.21
6	Cashew Kernels	671.51	764.05	1044.34
7	Sesame & Niger Seeds	101.19	116.20	75.17
8	Groundnut	7.40	7.95	157.68
9	Oilmeals & Guargum Meals	1013.94	1642.15	2451.20
10	Shellac	25.30	40.69	65.67
11	Sugar & Molasses	157.25	353.51	176.87
12	Fruits, Vegetables, Processed Food, etc.	785.06	867.70	1063.74
13	Spirit & Beverages	N.A.	41.65	44.94
	TOTAL:	4392.93	5678.83	7524.25

(Source: DGCJ & S, Calcutta) Major destinations are countries in West Asia, South East Asia, Europe and USA. Details of country-wise exports are contained in the March 1993 and" March 1994 issues of the Foreign Trade Statistics of India (Principal Commodities and Coun-tries of DGCI &S, copies of which are available in Parliament Labrary.

(b) India's share of export of agro-based commodities is less than 1 per cent of the world trade.

(c) The details of India's overall exports and those of agricultural commodities (excluding cotton) since 1991-92 are as below:

(Rs. crores)

	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
1. India's overall exports	44041.81	53688.26	69546.97
2. Exports of agricultural commodities	4392.93	5678.83	7524.25
3. % share of agricultural commodities to overall exports from India.	9.97%	10.58%	10.82%

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

(d) Government attaches high priority to the export of farm pro-ducts. Some of the specific steps taken to promote farm exports are:-

(1) Lowering of import duties on certain inputs and materials re quired by the agricultural sector.

(2) Bringing the sector under the purview of the scheme of Ex port Oriented Units (EOUs) and Export Processing Zones (EPZs) and allowing agriculture based EOUs the benefit df 50 per cent Of turnover to be sold in the domestic market as against the 25 per cent norm generally fixed.

(3) More aggressive overseas pub licity and sponsoring of trade delegations, arranging of buyer-seller meets and arranging of inter-action with importers.

Appointment of retired offieers in Coal India lad. and its subsidiaries

**14.* SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to refer to Unstarred Questions 672 and 679 given, in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th February, 1994 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that retired officials are being appointed as advisors or in any other capacity by Coal India Ltd. or its subsidsariesor in the Ministry of Coal drawing salaries from the funds of Coal India Limited;

(b) if so, the details of such offi cials who after retirement are serv ing Coal India limited, Coal Minis try or any of its subsidiaries as Ad visors or in any other capacity; and

(c) the details of terms and condi tions of their services such as pay ment, perks, facilities and the work being attended to by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to(c) Coal India Ltd maintenance a panel of Advisors consisting of persons who have expertise in technical managerial and other areas relevant to the coal industry. The panel also includes retired officers of coal com panies. CIL have informed that the services of Advisors in the panel are obtained as and when needed in very specific and specialised jobs. The Advi-sors whose services are engaged are paid remuneration at prescribed daily rates in accordance with the rank they held at the time of their retirement, payment being restricted upto 10 days in a month. They are also provided boarding and lodging facilities where available and paid daily allowance and travel facilities as ap-plicable to the officers of CIL of simi-lar ranks. The panel of Advisors as on 20.7.94 is enclosed as statement. (See below) which also indicates the area of expertise of each member of the panel.